

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 7, 13 and 14 without prejudice or disfavor.

Please amend the remaining claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing antibodies that react specifically with a polypeptide, wherein:

- (a) DNA encoding the polypeptide is expressed transiently in vitro in a mammalian host cell ~~which is derived from a mammal~~ using a vector that possesses at least one sequence encoding a detection signal tag ~~that is linked to the sequence encoding a the~~ polypeptide that can be present transiently at the cell surface via a GPI anchor, and the ~~expressed polypeptide is bound to a solid phase with the aid of the detection signal,~~
- (b) independently of step (a), the DNA encoding the polypeptide is cloned into an expression vector and introduced directly into an animal, resulting in *in vivo* expression of a polypeptide in the animal, which expression causes the formation of antibodies against the polypeptide and wherein the expression vector employed for the genetic immunization in step (b), is the same as also-used in vitro for producing the target ~~protein~~ polypeptide in step (a), and
- (c) the antibodies ~~which~~ that are formed in step (b) are removed from the animal in the form of serum, or following cell fusion, from hybridoma supernatants and then reacted with the polypeptide formed in step (a) and detected or enriched.

2. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the vector used in step (a) possesses, at the ~~C-terminus of the DNA encoding the polypeptide,~~ N-terminus of the

DNA encoded polypeptide, a sequence which that encodes the- a secretion signal leader sequence, a detection signal and at the C-terminus a cleavable or partially cleavable cell membrane anchoring sequence.

3. (Previously Amended) The process according to claim 2, wherein the detection sequence is selected from the group consisting of His₆-tag sequence, the hemagglutinin sequence of an influenza virus and the myc tag sequence.

4. (Previously Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the vector encoding the polypeptide possesses a polyadenylation sequence at the C-terminal end of the detection sequence.

5. (Previously Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the vector encoding the polypeptide possesses a strong promoter at the 5' end of the DNA sequence encoding the polypeptide.

6. (Previously Amended) The process according to claim 5, wherein the strong promoter is selected from the group consisting of strong eucaryotic promoters, in particular the elongation factor 1 α promoter or the cytomegalovirus promoter.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the DNA encoding the polypeptide is introduced into the animal in step (b) using a gene gun.

9. (Previously Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the animal employed in step (b) is a mouse, a rat or a rabbit.

10. (Previously Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein in step (b), a genetic adjuvant is administered in addition to the DNA encoding the polypeptide-

11. (Previously Amended) The process according to claim 10, wherein the genetic adjuvant is a cytokine expression vector which increases antibody production.

12. (Previously Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein suitable cells from an animal which has been immunized in accordance with step (b) are used for preparing hybridoma cells for forming monoclonal antibodies.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the antibody formed in step (b) is detected, after having been bound to the polypeptide formed in step (a), using an anti-antibody which is detected against the antibody.

16. (Previously Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the antibody which is reacted with the expressed polypeptide in step (c) is released by elution.

17. (Previously Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the detection signal is a sequence which is responsible for membrane anchoring using a GPI residue.